tourism there and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when these plans are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Area starting from Sirchu upwards to Leh has been included in the new Travel Circuit identified for intensive development.

Considering the importance of promoting tourism in the regions of Jammu and Ladakh, the Central Department of Tourism has extended financial assistance for 12 projects in Jammu region and 8 projects in Ladakh region during Seventh Five Year Plan and subsequent annual plans for 1990-91 and 1991-92.

Introducing new air flights

803. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines have introduced some new flights w.e.f. the 15th January, 1993;

(b) if so, the routes in which these new flights have been introduced;

(c) whether Government have introduced any new flights to Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if not, whether Government have any new proposal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However with effect from 1.3.93 Indian Airlines has restored 89 per cent of the capacity it offered prior to strike by pilots.

Japanese Government loan to promote traffic in area of Buddhist Interests in Uttar Pradesh

804. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Japanese Government had sanctioned a huge loan to promote traffic in areas of Buddhist interests in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the loan has been withdrawn due to its non-utilization;

(c) if so, the details of reasons for its withdrawal; and

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. A loan agreement was signed on 15th December, 1988 with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan for the development of infrastructural facilities along the identified Buddhist circuit in UP and Bihar. Against the total project cost of Rs 220.43 crores, Yen 9.244 Billion will be made available by the OECF.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Steep decline in tourist arriving India

805. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that despite the much touted Open Sky policy, the air transport system is in shambles, by heavy curtailment operations, chronic employee unrest and undue delays and the resultant loss in revenue;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a steep decline in tourist arrivals this year in comparison to last year; and